

2 *February*

EPPING URBAN—HARLOW URBAN
AND
EPPING AND ONGAR RURAL
DISTRICTS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Incorporating the Reports of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

For the Year 1957



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

as at 31st December, 1957.

EPPING URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman: Councillor L. B. FOSKETT

Members

Cllr. F. R. HUTTON (ex officio)	Cllr. Mrs. W. DEVONALD
" H. J. MAYHEW	" D. G. CLARK
Cllr. G. TEMPLE	

HARLOW URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman: Councillor A. E. BOND

Vice-Chairman: " Mrs. S. ANDERSON

Members

Cllr. D. L. ANDERSON (ex officio)	Cllr. Mrs. E. DRUCE.
" W. FISHER (ex officio)	" F. J. JAMES. J.P.

EPPING & ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT

Chairman: Councillor Lt.Col.K. F. MAY. O.B.E.

Vice-Chairman: " H. G. WATERMAN.

Members

Cllr. G. C. PADFIELD J.P. (ex officio)	Cllr. S. A. PAYNE
" R. TORRANCE (ex officio)	" E. G. ROAST
" Mrs. C. M. DOYLE	" Mrs. H. E. HOWARD
" E. W. MARSH	" J. OSBORN
" R. J. PADFIELD	" R. F. READER
" L. D. G. RICHINGS	" J. S. STEGGLES
" J. W. STEVENS	" J. R. WOOLLARD
" J. H. E. EVANS	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I. ASH, M.D., D.P.H.

Office:- 209, High Street, Epping, Essex.

Secretary:- Mrs. V. Lemon.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

EPPING URBAN DISTRICT

Hawthorn Lodge, 91, High Street, Epping.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

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Certificate in Sanitary Science, Royal
Sanitary Institute.

Assistant Surveyor and
Public Health Inspector.

M. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I. (till October, 1958)

Clerk.

Mrs.M. S. FARNSWORTH (From 1.1.57. to 22.3.57.)
Mrs.M. HOWARD (From 18.3.57.)

HARLOW URBAN DISTRICT

Netteswell Hall, Harlow.

Chief Public Health
Inspector.

H. J. HEELEY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.
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Diploma in Hygiene. Royal Institute of Public
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Chief Clerk.

Miss A. E. A. ROTHWELL.

Clerk.

Miss R. L. E. BOSANQUET.

EPPING & ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health
Inspector.

Additional Public Health
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Chief Clerk.

Clerks.

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Foods) Certificate.

T. D. BLYTH.

Mrs. G. B. CURTIS (To 14.9.57.)
Miss G. M. WILLIAMS.
Miss V. N. P. KNIGHT (From 23.9.57.)

To the Chairmen and Members of the Councils of the Epping Urban District, the Harlow Urban District and the Epping & Ongar Rural District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to place before you my Annual Report for 1957, compiled in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Article 14(3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926. The form of this report is substantially the same as the one introduced by me the previous year and the contents follow the usual lines.

As 1957 is the second complete year of existence of the Harlow Urban and the Epping & Ongar Rural Districts, all statistical data are directly comparable with those of the preceding year. For easy reference I have, therefore, given in brackets some of the 1956 figures alongside those for 1957.

In Section C. the Public Health Inspectors have again given an account of the sanitary conditions in the districts and of their work during the year. To them as well as to the other officers of the three authorities I wish to express my thanks for their co-operation and for the information supplied for my report. I also want to record once more my appreciation of the help and encouragement given me by the members of the three Councils.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
I. ASH., M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N

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A

ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL.

The revision of the apportionment of the Medical Officer of Health's time which was pending at the close of 1956 took place early in the year under review. With effect from 1st May, 1957, five elevenths of his time were to be devoted to County Council duties and six elevenths to District Councils duties. On paper this rearrangement appeared to be reasonably satisfactory, but in practice it did not remove the difficulties previously experienced. This was due to the fact that, although the Medical Officer of Health was relieved of his duties in some of the Harlow schools, in the remaining ones the number of children and hence the work involved had almost doubled in comparison with the year before.

The allocation of the six half-days for County District duties and of the connected expenses was arranged on a basis of 50% to Harlow, 40% to Epping & Ongar Rural District and 10% to Epping Urban District.

In the course of the year Mr. M. Perry of the Epping Urban District was successful in the examination of the Public Health Inspectors Education Board. This was the first time that the Epping Urban District Council had trained a member of its staff for this particular examination. Unfortunately Mr. Perry left in October to take the appointment of Additional Public Health Inspector at Hoddesdon. It was not possible to obtain a replacement for him by the end of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The mid-year population of the three districts stood at 77,280 (70,050), an increase of 7,230 (6,370) over the previous year. Harlow had 5,860 (5,170) more inhabitants, Epping 350 (560) and Epping & Ongar Rural District 1,020 (640) more. Harlow was, therefore, again responsible for over two thirds of the total increase in the three districts. The excess of births over deaths accounted for 17% (16.2%) of the population increase in Harlow and for 18.3% (9.6%) and 26.7% (41.2%) in Epping Urban District and Epping & Ongar Rural District respectively. The balance was due to immigration.

The birth rates have changed very little since the previous year, with a fractional increase in Epping and an equally small decrease in Harlow and Epping & Ongar. The death rates were slightly lower in all three districts. Both birth and death rates are again given as "crude" and "adjusted" rates, and, although the difference between the two was explained in the preceding year's report, subsequent questions and discussions in committees have shown that the matter is not generally understood and a brief explanation is, therefore, given in the following paragraph.

The purpose of birth and death statistics is twofold - to measure from year to year the variations in the size and composition of the population and to serve as a rough index of health. The first object is attained by calculating the "crude" rates which simply give the number of births and deaths occurring during the year per 1,000 of the population of the district. Regarding the second object, that of assessing the health of the community, this can only be done by inference from mortality rates and to a lesser degree from birth rates. If the population in every local authority area were of the same age and sex composition, then a lower birth rate and/or higher mortality rate in one or more of them would indicate the presence of some adverse environmental influences. As it is, however, a district may have a low birth rate and high mortality rate not because it is less healthy than other districts but simply because it has a large aged population. It would, therefore, be unsatisfactory to compare "crude" rates because one would not be comparing like with like. The "adjusted" (standardised) rates, on the other hand, are weighted to make allowance for the differences in the structure of the population from year to year and from district to district and are therefore better indices for the purpose of comparison. Thus the "adjusted" rates for the three districts given in Section C. are not only comparable with each other but also with similarly adjusted rates of any other district and with the rate for England and Wales as a whole. It will be noticed that in Harlow, where the age composition of the population is unbalanced, the difference between "crude" and "adjusted" rates is appreciable.

The infant and neo-natal mortality rates have increased in all districts but with the exception of Epping they are still lower than the national rates.

The stillbirth rate in Harlow at 26.2 per 1,000 live and still births was not only higher than that of the previous year (20.9 per 1,000) but also higher than for England and Wales. In Epping the high still birth rate for 1956 (42.2 per 1,000) declined to 32.9 per 1,000 in 1957 but remained higher than the national one.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the appreciable increase in deaths from malignant neoplasm of the lung and bronchus noted in the previous year has not continued. In Epping and Harlow the number of deaths was exactly the same as a year before and in Epping & Ongar it actually declined from 14 in 1956 to 5 in 1957. All the deceased were men.

Deaths from all other malignant neoplasms except that of lung and bronchus increased in Harlow from 43 in 1956 to 58 in 1957 and in Epping & Ongar from 16 in 1956 to 21 in 1957. In Epping deaths declined from 16 to 11 in the corresponding period.

The numerical increase in Harlow and Epping & Ongar was due to a larger population at risk, and mortality rates from this cause have changed little in comparison with the previous year.

There were fewer deaths from coronary disease in Harlow and Epping & Ongar but not in Epping.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Events in 1957 confirmed the statement made in the previous Annual Report that "many communicable diseases have not yet been conquered" and that these diseases "still demand a large amount of the Medical Officer of Health's time and attention." A sharp outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in Harlow in the summer and influenza swept through the three districts in October and November.

Poliomyelitis.

Contrary to the experience in some other areas where it was found that poliomyelitis spread through close contacts and within narrow channels only, in Harlow it was observed that the disease was widespread in the community. Although only 34 cases were notified it is known that a considerable number of people were ill with fever, sore throat and meningeal irritation. These cases differed in many important respects from those of aseptic virus meningitis observed in the autumn of 1956 and must, therefore, be presumed to have been non-paralytic poliomyelitis, particularly in view of the fact that paralytic cases were occurring at the same time. There were so many of these non-paralytic cases and the local fever hospital was so short of beds that most of them were treated in their homes. Of the 34 notified cases 24 were paralytic, and of these one was fatal. In most cases the paralysis was not severe and did not leave serious residual disability. The table on page 40 shows the age and sex distribution of the cases.

The attack rate at 95.3 per 100,000 population was one of the highest in the country in 1957 but it must not be overlooked that the population at risk, i.e. children and young persons, is larger in Harlow than in other towns of comparable size.

In the Rural District there were six cases of poliomyelitis, four paralytic and two non-paralytic.

All cases were thoroughly investigated, and a possible connexion was found in four groups comprising three patients in one and two patients in each of the other groups. There was history of river or sea bathing within the incubation period in 8 of the 34 cases. Two cases were diagnosed only after the appearance of paralysis. In one of them there was a history of a previous mild febrile disease, but in the other no history of illness or injuries could be elicited, and the case came to the attention of the general practitioner only after members of the family noticed that the patient had developed weaknesses of certain muscles.

Not one of the children who contracted poliomyelitis had been vaccinated against the disease.

In all cases the close contacts were visited and given advice and written instructions.

Influenza.

The influenza epidemic which struck the three districts was not unexpected. Reports coming in the spring from the Far East through the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health made it quite obvious that a pandemic of the disease due to a new strain of virus could be expected, and all general practitioners in the area were alerted early in June.

Although isolated cases of influenza appeared earlier, the actual epidemic started during the week ended 28th September. The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance reported that during that period the number of claims for sickness benefit showed an increase of more than 100% on the average weekly figure of 1956/57. The spread of the epidemic was very rapid, and the peak was reached during the fortnight between October 6th and 19th. In some of the day schools absenteeism during this period reached over 45%, and in one residential school in the area all but one of the pupils and staff were taken ill. During the week ended 8th October the number of new claims for sickness benefit reached 112 in Epping and 372 in Harlow, compared with 34 and 77 respectively during the corresponding week in 1956.

On the whole the disease was mild, but in a number of cases there were pulmonary complications which were normally not officially notified. Nevertheless 24 cases of pneumonia were reported during the year in the three districts as against 11 in 1956, and there were 9 deaths attributable to influenza, compared with 5 in the previous year.

Two interesting features of the epidemic worth mentioning are that mainly children and young persons were affected and that there were

many cases of apparent relapse, occurring after an interval varying from a few days to four weeks following the initial attack.

Vaccination against influenza was made available to doctors, nurses and other priority groups of persons but not before the epidemic was already nearing its end, so that the effectiveness of this prophylactic measure could not be assessed.

Measles.

The incidence of measles showed an expected increase during the year under review. The figures for the past six years covering the three districts clearly illustrate the biennial cycle of this disease:

1957	-	1890 cases	=	24.4	per 1,000 population.
1956	-	395	"	=	5.6 " " "
1955	-	1390	"	=	21.8 " " "
1954	-	257	"	=	4.6 " " "
1953	-	929	"	=	19.0 " " "
1952	-	275	"	=	6.2 " " "

Intestinal Infections.

Eighteen cases of food poisoning, one less than in 1956, were notified in the three districts. Twelve of them occurred in Harlow and six in the Epping & Ongar Rural District. All were isolated cases. *Salmonella typhi-murium* was identified as the causative agent in fifteen of the cases, and *Salmonella heidelberg* in one. In the remaining two cases the cause could not be established.

Dysentery was much less prevalent than in the previous year, but the 23 (151) notified cases in the three districts by no means represent the total incidence. As the disease is generally mild many cases remain undetected or are not notified.

Trials with a new preparation for the treatment of Sonne dysentery were attempted late in 1956, but the results were inconclusive because not enough cases had been notified for an effective assessment of this drug.

Tuberculosis.

The general decline of tuberculosis in the country was not reflected in the notification figures of new cases in Harlow and in the Epping & Ongar Rural District. Only in Epping was there a drop from the previous year's high rate of 1.0 new cases per 1,000 population to 0.24 per 1,000 population in 1957. In Harlow the number of new cases rose from 14 in 1956 (0.47 per 1,000 population) to 23 in 1957 (0.64 per 1,000 population) and in the Epping & Ongar Rural District from 8 in 1956 (0.25 per 1,000 population) to 24 in 1957 (0.72 per 1,000 population). Nevertheless

these figures still compare favourably with those for the whole of England and Wales where in 1957 the notification rate of all forms of tuberculosis was 0.74 per 1,000 population. Details of new cases added to the registers of the three districts and of those removed from them are given in Section C. of this report.

The North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board's Mass Radiography Unit which serves the area could not arrange a visit during 1957 because of heavy commitments elsewhere. However, such visit was definitely promised for the spring of 1958.

Before concluding this chapter a few words must be said about the administrative arrangements for the control of tuberculosis. The Public Health Act, 1936, places upon the Medical Officer of Health of a County District certain definite duties relating to the prevention of spread of infections. Tuberculosis still remains one of the most important communicable diseases and causes over half of all deaths due to infection. Nevertheless, the part that the District Medical Officer of Health is allowed to play in its prevention is very limited. The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, place upon the Local Health Authority the responsibility for the prevention of tuberculosis and the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. The backbone of tuberculosis control is the Chest Physician appointed by the Regional Hospital Board. His duties, however, are mainly of a clinical nature, and only a small part of his time, paid for by the Local Health Authority, is devoted to prevention. Mass Radiography, an important weapon in the fight against tuberculosis, is also directly administered by the Regional Hospital Board. The Local Health Authority's part in prevention is carried out by the Tuberculosis Visitor, who, although a full time County employee, is in her work under the direct control of the Chest Physician. Under this arrangement the County District Medical Officer of Health must entirely rely upon others for the prevention of tuberculosis, although he himself is generally responsible to his authority for safeguarding public health in the area. He is also called upon to advise his Council on such medico-social matters important in the control of tuberculosis as the allocation of houses on health grounds. The present system is, therefore, not very satisfactory because the task of tuberculosis control is divided between the Regional Hospital Board and the Local Health Authority, neither of whom has intimate knowledge of local conditions. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health's pious hope of close co-operation in the prevention of tuberculosis between the Local Health Authority and the District Councils (Circular 6/52) is not always fulfilled.

The responsibility for the prevention of milk-borne tuberculosis is also divided between three authorities: the County Council acting under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, and the County District Medical Officer of Health under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Here, too, there is room for closer co-operation which could bring definite benefits.

In the course of the year specimens of milk from four farms in the Epping & Ongar Rural District were, on biological examination, found to be positive for tuberculosis. Appropriate action was taken in every case.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

As in the previous report, the environmental health services are described in detail in Section C. Here comments are offered only on a few specific matters.

Water.

The Public Health Inspector of Epping Urban District reports on page 30 on the complaints received about the occurrence of a heavy rusty deposit in the water supply. This problem is neither new nor confined solely to Epping, and it has been encountered from time to time in the Rural District. It is not as infrequent as may appear, and there are probably few residents of Epping who have not had the experience of getting turbid, brownish water on turning on their taps - in fact many say that it is almost a weekly occurrence. However, most people accept it as something inevitable about which they grumble but seldom make official complaints.

The Herts & Essex Water Company supply water with a naturally high content of iron which, in the form of ferrous bicarbonate, remains dissolved so long as the water is underground. At the well heads, however, the water is aerated by cascading, and the soluble ferrous bicarbonate is transformed into insoluble ferric hydroxide which, as the water is not filtered, passes into the mains. This ferric hydroxide is deposited in branch pipes, especially those which are in low lying districts and where the flow is slow; and under certain conditions finds its way in considerable amounts into the domestic taps. On such occasions, although the water remains bacteriologically safe, the heavy rusty deposit makes it unfit for either drinking or most other domestic uses. The Epping Urban Council have made repeated representations to the Water Company who as a result have intensified the flushing of their mains in an effort to prevent the accumulation of the deposit. Time will show whether this measure meets with success.

Another cause of frequent complaints is the excessive hardness of the water which causes heavy scaling in domestic hot water systems, kettles, etc. The scaling often builds up very rapidly and in such quantity that it causes considerable damage to small heating appliances and often completely blocks hot water pipes. Softening of the water at the source would not only remove most of the hardness but would also get rid of much of the iron which, as previously explained, causes a lot of inconvenience. However, central water softening is costly and a thorough investigation by the Water Company and the interested Local Authorities into all technical and financial aspects of the problem is necessary.

Sewage.

Numerous complaints about the highly offensive smell from the Harlow Development Corporation's Rye Meads Sewage Works were received during the early part of the summer from Roydon and from Stansted Abbots, across the district boundary. This foul odour emanated from raw sludge which, because of the non-completion of digestion tanks, had for about three years been running out from the sedimentation tanks into two large open lagoons, each about 40,000 square feet in area and six feet deep. Because of the very large quantity of sludge in these lagoons its removal and satisfactory disposal elsewhere would have cost an enormous amount of money. Moreover, it was considered inadvisable to disturb it because by doing so the foul smell would have been further dispersed. On the advice of the Counties Public Health Laboratories the septic fluid, which was overflowing from one of the lagoons into an adjacent area and was thought to be the major source of the smell, was dosed with a hypochlorite solution. It was difficult to assess the effect of this procedure, because at about the same time the weather, which had earlier been very hot and dry, changed to the more normal English summer conditions and the nuisance from the sewage works was considerably reduced. In addition one of the digestion tanks came into full operation and no more raw sewage was discharged into the lagoons.

Housing.

Satisfactory progress was made with the provision of new houses in the three districts. Details for each authority are given in Section C.

Twenty four applications for the allocation of Council houses on medical grounds were investigated (Epping Urban District 4; Harlow Urban District 2; Epping & Ongar Rural District 18). In each case the Council concerned was advised on the degree of priority.

On page 61 the Chief Public Health Inspector for Epping & Ongar Rural District reports that six families from the Glen Faba and Riverfields estates have been rehoused. These were some of the earliest permanent residents there for whom the Council had accepted responsibility in accordance with the recommendations made in May, 1949, by the then Minister of Town & Country Planning. However, no progress was made towards implementing another of the Minister's recommendations, namely that the Council should provide an alternative site for the erection of holiday chalets and bungalows, and that the Glen Faba and Riverfields

sites should be progressively cleared of all buildings. Although the rehousing of the six families and the demolition of their shacks was a step in the right direction it was not followed up by measures to prevent other squatters from settling on the vacant land. The ownership of some of the remaining properties has also changed hands despite warning by the Council, and the buyers seemed to be quite confident that the Local Authority would not take any energetic action to clear the site within the foreseeable future. Meanwhile the sanitary conditions on the estates remain as bad as ever and would compare unfavourably even with those of many native African shanty towns.

Food.

Further progress was made with implementing that part of the Food Hygiene Regulations which deals with essential structural requirements and equipment. Nevertheless, the standard of food hygiene still leaves much to be desired. The main reason for this is that many food handlers do not use intelligently the facilities provided, and the consumers are generally so apathetic that they do not protest against unhygienic practices.

So far education in food hygiene has been on a voluntary basis and has achieved relatively little. The time may well be ripe for new legislation to ensure that those employed in the catering trade have the minimum elementary knowledge of food hygiene.

The law requires slaughtermen to be licensed so that the Local Authority may be satisfied that they know their trade and that in carrying it out they do not cause unnecessary suffering to animals. Food infections can also cause considerable suffering and in some cases even death. Do not humans deserve protection similar to that given to animals? Could it not be made compulsory for food handlers to satisfy the Public Health Department or another appropriate official body that they have attained a minimum of knowledge and understanding of food hygiene? Of course, an enormous amount of effort, organisation, time and money would be required to license all food handlers, but a useful start could be made with large food establishments catering for mass consumption and employing workers above a certain specified number. In addition (or alternatively if it is not administratively practicable to license food handlers) all food premises should be required to register with the Local Authority who should have full powers to withhold or revoke such registrations if the standards of hygiene of the premises or of food handling are not satisfactory.

Existing legislation makes it also difficult to prevent the spread of certain infectious diseases through food. The Public Health Act, 1936, the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and the Essex County Council Act, 1952, deal with this matter, but all require that the Medical Officer of Health be first satisfied that a person is suffering from or is a carrier of an infectious disease before legally requiring him to refrain from handling food for public consumption. As suspicion alone, no matter how strong, is not sufficient, it is usually necessary to carry out confirmatory laboratory investigations which often take two to three days during which time the person concerned may infect a large number of others. In the case of poliomyelitis, when most of the patient's close contacts normally become sub-clinically infected and can excrete poliomyelitis virus in their stools, there are no legal provisions for their exclusion from work involving food handling.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Early in the year all but one of the instruments for the measurement of atmospheric pollution had been installed in the three districts. The daily smoke and sulphur dioxide instrument for Harlow, which is to be housed in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Office, was awaiting the carrying out of structural alterations to the premises which would have interfered with its functioning. The following instruments were in operation:-

Epping Urban District	-	1 lead peroxide candle
Harlow Urban District	-	1 deposit gauge 2 lead peroxide candles
Epping & Ongar Rural District	-	1 deposit gauge 3 lead peroxide candles 1 daily smoke instrument

Efforts to establish a smoke control area in Harlow were pursued, and in February the Minister of Housing and Local Government indicated that he would be prepared to confirm a smoke control order provided supplies of smokeless fuel were satisfactory. Should, however, the question arise of deciding between the claim of one of the black areas of the country and Harlow, he would give priority to the former. On the basis of the Minister's letter the Harlow Council instructed its officers to proceed with the preparation of estimates of the extent of the area and of the cost involved. By the end of the year the work was well in hand.

Factories Act, 1937 - Outwork.

A thorough revision of the registers of outworkers for the three districts was carried out, and adequate arrangements were made for informing the relative public health inspectors of any changes.

PROBLEM FAMILIES.

The setting up of a special committee in Harlow and the mention made of it in the Annual Report for 1956 has caused some people to misunderstand its scope. The committee deals with what is generally known as "problem families", and its official name is "Committee for the Co-ordination and Prevention of Break-up of Families". The main aim of the committee is to ensure the full use of the existing statutory and voluntary social services and to co-ordinate their efforts in such a way as to prevent overlapping. "Problem families" are not easy to define. They are those families who are socially incompetent to such a degree that they require for their own well-being and that of others a considerable amount of help and supervision over long periods. Most families have problems of one kind or another but they are not "problem families". The committee does not deal, therefore, with families threatened with eviction for non-payment of rent or with those who have contracted hire-purchase commitments above their means, unless the underlying cause is chronic physical, mental or social disability requiring rehabilitation.

Despite the fact that a letter about the committee and its scope had been sent to all local General Practitioners and Ministers of Religion the case load remained very light and the committee continued meeting at three-monthly intervals only. Altogether eight families were dealt with, three of whom were already under supervision the previous year. In one case it was necessary to have six children committed to the care of the County Council. Of the remaining cases, two had improved to such an extent that supervision was discontinued and three others were making steady progress. One family moved out of the district, and in the case of another one the husband, who was the source of all the trouble, disappeared and thus solved the problem.

CARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The care of old people already demands of the public health services a large amount of time and effort. With further improvement in the general standard of living and medical care, the proportion of old people in the community will continue to increase and old age will become the greatest socio-economical problem of our times. Although in the three districts this situation is still remote the number of old persons requiring care and attention is steadily growing.

In March, an Old Peoples Welfare Association was formed in Harlow and its executive committee set out with great energy to organise such services as chiropody, hot meals, visiting, etc. The Harlow Urban District Council made a grant for the partial financing of the chiropody and meals service and the Essex Old People's Welfare Committee also contributed. The Medical Officer of Health kept in close touch with this Association and in Harlow and the Rural District continued to provide help for old people who were in need of it. Nineteen persons (nine in Harlow and

ten in Epping & Ongar Rural District) requiring care and attention were thus assisted. Most of these cases necessitated repeated visits and time-consuming administrative arrangements with various statutory and voluntary organisations. Eight old persons were removed to hospital, where five of them died after only a short stay. Arrangements for a recuperative holiday were made for two persons. In two other cases relatives were persuaded to accept the old people into their homes and to look after them. Arrangements for the provision of various nursing appliances were made in a further three cases and the remainder, having refused to enter either a hospital or Part III accommodation, were only visited and supervised.

It was felt that a number of cases were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health too late for any effective help to be given. Rehousing or admission to a hospital or Part III accommodation requires on the part of any individual considerable social and emotional adjustment. This becomes very difficult in old age, and the social measures designed to help aged persons must therefore be applied early enough when the people concerned are physically and mentally sufficiently fit to benefit from them and when satisfactory adjustment to the new circumstances is still possible.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The programme of health education initiated the year before was continued in all three districts. Early in the year a campaign against the spread of upper respiratory disease was conducted by means of posters and of a film trailer, the latter shown in the Harlow Cinema. Posters dealing with food poisoning and prevention of accidents were also widely distributed. Talks to various organisations were given on the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, the National Health Service and the School Health Service, and a group discussion on problems of adolescents was held in one of the secondary schools in Harlow.

In June, following the report of the Medical Research Council, the Minister of Health recommended that the connexion between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung should be publicised. In the three districts this had already been started the year before. A number of posters and leaflets on the subject were distributed to various organisations and to senior pupils in secondary schools. Reference to the problem was also made in the Annual Report for 1956. During the year under review the efforts to acquaint the general public with the facts brought out by the report of the Medical Research Council were continued.

A generally satisfactory relationship was maintained with the local newspapers, and during the poliomyelitis outbreak in Harlow use was made of the press to keep the public informed of the situation and to give advice on preventative measures.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health continued to examine Council employees in connexion with their admission to the Superannuation and/or Sick Pay Scheme. During 1957 seventy-six persons were medically examined and the results are shown below:-

<u>Authority.</u>	<u>Number examined.</u>	<u>Result of examination.</u>		
		<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Not fit.</u>	<u>Decision deferred.</u>
Epping Urban District.....	-	-	-	-
Harlow Urban District.....	50	47	3	-
Epping & Ongar Rural District...	26	20	6	-
	<u>76</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>

NEW LEGISLATION.

The following Acts of Parliament, having direct or indirect bearing on public health, received Royal Assent in the course of the year:-

Public Health Officers (Deputies) Act, 1957.

Rent Act, 1957.

Thermal Insulation (Industrial Buildings) Act, 1957.

Housing Act, 1957.

The Housing Act, 1957, is a consolidating Act which repeals or amends most of the main Act of 1936 and sections of other lesser housing Acts. It came into force on 1st September, 1957, and, strictly speaking, any administrative housing action prior to that date was therefore taken under the Housing Acts, 1936-56. However, in order to avoid confusion only two Housing Acts are mentioned in the report, those of 1949 and 1957.

S E C T I O N

B

I. The Health Services Administered by the Essex County Council.

As in previous years the Medical Officers for the Forest and Mid-Essex Health Areas and Educational Divisions, Drs.F.G.Brown and J.L. Miller Wood, have kindly supplied the following information about the personal health services in the three districts.

	<u>Epping</u> <u>Urban</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Harlow</u> <u>Urban</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Epping</u> <u>& Ongar</u> <u>Rural</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Ante-Natal Clinics.</u>				
(a) Ante-natal attendances.....	317	6943	- }	7409
(b) Post-natal attendances.....	-	149	- }	
<u>Child Welfare Clinics.</u>				
Attendances:-				
Under 1 year.....	1659	13944	2934 }	26464
1 - 5 years.....	890	4458	2579 }	
<u>Women's Welfare Clinics.</u>				
Attendances.....	104	-	-	104
<u>Midwifery & Home Nursing.</u>				
No. of cases attended by midwives:				
(a) as midwives.....	53	528	240 }	3065
(b) as maternity nurses.....	3	72	2169 }	
No. of visits paid by home nurses	3072	9072	13732	25876
<u>Health Visiting.</u>				
No. of visits made.....	1340	13390	2813	17543
<u>Immunizations.</u>				
Smallpox.....	140	1201	353	1694
Revaccinations.....	131	276	125	532
Diphtheria.....	117	1048	401	1566
Booster doses.....	68	711	227	1006
Whooping cough.....	78	222	247	547
Booster doses.....	2	25	18	45
Polomyelitis.....	363	1794	1389	3546

Vaccination against poliomyelitis which began in 1956 was offered to children of a wider age range but scarcity of British vaccine and the Government's reluctance to import foreign made vaccine caused delays in the programme. In Harlow, a sharp outbreak of poliomyelitis caused the suspension of all immunizations during the summer months.

The School Health Service continued to make an important contribution towards the prevention of illness and the promotion of health amongst the younger members of the community. During the year some services were expanded and improved but others suffered delays and curtailment due to unavoidable circumstances.

In Epping, Harlow and that part of Epping & Ongar which is in the Forest Division tuberculin testing of school entrants was extended to all infants' schools.

B.C.G. vaccination of 13/14 years old pupils was continued in all three districts as shown by the following statistics:-

	<u>No. to whom offered</u>	<u>No. given tuberculin test on receipt of parents' consent</u>	<u>No. who gave a positive reaction</u>	<u>No. vaccinated with B.C.G.</u>
Epping Urban District...	87	51	6	41
Harlow Urban District...	771	432	43	361
Epping & Ongar Rural District.....	150	80	21	59

Eight children (one from Epping and seven from Harlow) were given recuperative holidays in special homes.

Very great difficulty was experienced with providing child guidance treatment for pupils from the Epping and Harlow schools. There was a very long waiting list at the nearest Child Guidance Clinic in Walthamstow but the situation was expected to ease with the opening in the Spring of 1958 of the new Harlow Clinic.

It has not yet been possible to appoint a School Dental Officer for Harlow and the only remaining one in Epping resigned early in the year.

II. General Provision of Medical Services.

General Practitioners.

The harmonious relations with the General Practitioners were maintained and further strengthened. The family doctors are now realising more and more that a complete health service for the community can only be achieved through the closest co-operation with the public health personnel and that the latter, far from wanting to encroach upon their duties, are there to help them and to complement their work.

Hospitals.

In June, the Chairman of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board held a press conference at which he announced that the work on the Harlow hospital would start in the spring of 1958 and *the first stage* would be completed early in 1960. This first of four stages is planned to include out-patient, radiology and casualty departments besides the general site clearing. The completed hospital will have 244 beds (considerably less than was originally intended) and radiology and pathology departments large enough to accept work direct from the General Practitioners.

The Epping Group Hospital Management Committee continued meanwhile to provide in and out-patient services for the bulk of the population in the three districts. The Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey, was particularly busy with the considerable number of poliomyelitis patients from Harlow, the Epping & Ongar Rural District and from other surrounding areas.

The staffing difficulties at the Ongar War Memorial Hospital were overcome satisfactorily and admission of maternity cases was resumed.

Good liaison between the hospitals and the Medical Officer of Health was maintained.

Laboratory Services.

Most of the bacteriological work in connexion with the control of infectious diseases continued to be carried out by the pathological department of St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, whose staff was always very helpful and co-operative.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories were used for the monthly examination of samples from instruments for the measurement of atmospheric pollution and for other routine and special examinations.

S E C T I O N

C

E P P I N G U R B A N D I S T R I C T

I. Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

General Data.

Area (in acres).....	1,488
Resident population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	8,290
Number of occupied houses (mid-year).....	2,500
Number of houses per acre (average).....	1.7
Number of persons per acre (average).....	5.6
Number of persons per house (average).....	3.3
Ratable value (mid-year).....	£106,046
Product of a penny rate (financial year 1957/58).....	£420
The rate in the pound (financial year 1957/58).....	17/4d

Births.

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate....	71 (64)	72 (66)
	Illegitimate..	1 (4)	3 (2)
	Total:-	<u>72 (68)</u>	<u>75 (68)</u>
Crude rate	per 1,000 population.....	17.7	(17.1)
Adjusted rate....	" " "	16.5	(15.9)
England and Wales	" " "	16.1	(15.7)
(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>	Legitimate....	3 (2)	1 (3)
	Illegitimate..	1 (-)	- (1)
	Total:-	<u>4 2</u>	<u>1 (4)</u>
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births..		32.9	(42.2)
" " " " " England and Wales.		22.4	(23.0)

Deaths.M.F.

(a) All ages 46 (47) 37 (35)

Crude rate..... per 1,000 population	10.0	(10.3)
Adjusted rate.... " " "	9.8	(10.1)
England and Wales " " "	11.5	(11.7)

(b) Infants under 1 year of age.

Legitimate.....	5 (-)	- (-)
Illegitimate.....	- (2)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:-	5 (2)	- (-)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births..	34.0	(14.7)
" " " England and Wales.....	23.0	(23.8)

(c) Infants under 4 weeks of age.

Legitimate.....	3 (-)	- (-)
Illegitimate.....	- (2)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:-	3 (2)	- (-)

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	20.4	(14.7)
" " " England and Wales.....	16.5	(16.9)

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes.....	46(47)	37(35)	83(82)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
4. Diphtheria.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping cough.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2 (2)	- (-)	2 (2)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	- (-)	3 (2)	3 (2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	- (-)	1 (2)	1 (2)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms..	4 (5)	3 (5)	7 (10)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
16. Diabetes.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	5 (9)	7 (7)	12 (16)
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	11 (13)	9 (3)	20 (16)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
20. Other heart disease.....	4 (6)	7 (7)	11 (13)
21. Other circulatory disease.....	1 (-)	- (2)	1 (2)
22. Influenza.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23. Pneumonia.....	5 (1)	1 (1)	6 (2)
24. Bronchitis.....	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system.	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
31. Congenital malformations.....	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases...	5 (3)	3 (2)	8 (5)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	2 (-)	- (1)	2 (1)
34. All other accidents.....	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
35. Suicides.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Communicable Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

	Notifications according to age groups												Total	Incidence rate per 100,000 population	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Age unknown			
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	48.2	65.8
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12.1	189.3
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7.1
non - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3.7
Measles	6	15	14	21	13	87	3	3	3	-	-	-	105	1990.3	1410.9
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	64.3
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2.3
Acute pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	12.1	72.8
Encephalitis - infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.4
post - infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	12.1	8.0
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	20.4
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	132.6	

N.B. The incidence rates of infective hepatitis and puerperal pyrexia for England & Wales are not available.

* All these cases occurred in St.Margaret's Hospital.

Communicable Diseases - Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary,</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on the register at 1st January, 1957.....	32(21)	33(20)	4(3)	2(1)	71(45)
Number of cases added to the register during 1957:-					
New cases.....	1 (5)	- (2)	1(-)	-(1)	2 (8)
Inward transfers.....	3 (8)	5(14)	-(1)	-(1)	8(23)
Number of cases removed from register during 1957:-					
* Deaths	- (-)	1 (-)	-(1)	-(1)	1 (-)
Outward transfers.....	4 (2)	6 (3)	-(1)	-(1)	10 (5)
Patients cured.....	- (-)	2 (-)	-(1)	-(1)	2 (-)
Diagnosis amended.....	- (-)	- (-)	-(1)	-(1)	- (-)
Number of patients remaining on the register at 31.12.57.....	32(32)	29(33)	5(4)	2(2)	68(71)

* From causes other than tuberculosis.

SICKNESS BENEFIT CLAIMS.

Table showing the monthly number of new
claims submitted to the Epping Office of
the Ministry of Pensions and National
Insurance.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Claims.</u>	
January.....	211	(256)
February.....	169	(209)
March.....	174	(140)
April.....	160	(124)
May.....	102	(123)
June.....	117	(102)
July.....	143	(112)
August.....	87	(83)
September.....	133	(101)
October.....	539	(161)
November.....	257	(139)
December.....	299	(184)

II. Sanitary Circumstances.

The Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

Water.

The question of the recurrent discolouration of the local supply, already mentioned in the previous Annual Report, continued to occupy the attention of the Council. Complaints were received from nineteen different premises in the town, some of which were affected on more than one occasion. The occurrences were always of short duration, and were generally explained by the Water Company as being either due to conditions following interruptions in the supply, or occurring at times of high consumption when the increased flow through the pipes created turbulence and disturbance of the sediment.

All complaints received by the Council were forwarded to the Company who did not consider their number to be excessive, having regard to the size of the area.

As the discolouration was due to a heavy deposit of iron hydroxide the Company carried out investigations to determine the initial iron content at the wells and whether it varied during the passage of the water through the distributing mains. The results were too inconclusive to make any real contribution towards solving the problem. The Essex County Council has been invited to consider the matter and to ascertain whether similar conditions exist in other parts of the County.

Sewerage.

(a) Sewage Works.

At both works damage was caused to buildings and plant. In one case all the windows of the pump house were broken and it has now been found necessary to fit metal shutters to them.

At the Southern Outfall an additional screening chamber was built by the Council's own staff and is giving very efficient service. New filter arms were also fitted at these works, and there is no doubt that they have considerably improved the distribution of the effluent over the filtering medium.

The effect of the increased use of detergents for domestic washing is very marked at both works. The sprinkler arms become very easily choked and there is very considerable frothing in the streams into which the effluent discharges.

Samples were taken as follows:-

Northern Outfall - by the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
January.	Satisfactory.
April.	Unsatisfactory. (It was thought probable that this was a "freak"

result caused by a temporary fault in the distributing arms. A slight leakage in these was attended to and further samples were taken.)

May.	Satisfactory.
July.	Satisfactory.
September.	Satisfactory.
December.	Satisfactory.

Southern Outfall - by the Essex River Board.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
September.	Satisfactory.
October.	Satisfactory.

(b) Sewers.

As a result of housing development along the northern sewerage system a length of the oldest pipe line in the district was exposed, found to be cracked, and re-laid. This type of defect which has been encountered before is to be expected in very old pipes and is being revealed as housing development takes place along their course.

The extension of an existing butcher's business to include the preparation of pre-packed frozen foods caused an additional flow of trade effluent and some obstruction in the sewerage system. To remedy this the firm concerned has installed special grease intercepting traps. Another firm is negotiating for the admission of trade effluent into the soil sewers. The Public Analyst is now considering conditions under which the Council may be prepared to accept this effluent.

Housing.

(a) General.

Total number of occupied houses as at 31.12.57.....	2641
New houses erected by Epping Urban District Council...	22
New houses erected by Chingford Borough Council.....	84
New houses erected by private enterprise.....	56

Houses completed during the year enabled the Council to rehouse all the tenants included in the third stage of the five year clearance area programme. This programme is therefore proceeding according to schedule. Again it was possible to clear the houses concerned by agreement with the owners.

The majority of other dwellings provided took the form of aged persons' bungalows. The need for this type of accommodation is increasing and there is a long waiting list.

Good progress was made with a contract which should produce fifty-five units of accommodation during 1958, so enabling the Council to keep up to date with their clearance area programme, as well as to make some reduction in the length of the ordinary waiting list.

It will be noted that the Chingford Borough Council doubled the number of houses completed and occupied, and has now almost finished its development in Epping.

The demolition of condemned properties was continued on sites in Lindsey Street, Church Hill and Tidys Lane.

(b) Repairs.

Intimation notices served.....	15
Statutory notices served.....	1
Inspections carried out.....	62

(c) Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)

Applications considered and approved.....	2
---	---

(d) Clearance Area Programme.

Families rehoused.....	11
Properties left empty on undertaking from owners.....	16

(e) Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

Applications were made by tenants in respect of three properties, and certificates of disrepair were issued by the Council. In one case the required work was completed, whilst in the other two negotiations with the owner were still proceeding.

Public Conveniences.

Considerable damage was again experienced, particularly in Clark's Lane, where windows were continually being broken. They were eventually replaced with glass bricks which have so far proved to be satisfactory.

A new type of disinfectant dispenser was installed inside the flushing cisterns.

Public Cleansing.

Early in the year considerable difficulty was experienced in recruiting sufficient staff, especially loader/drivers. The position eased about the middle of the year and has remained satisfactory.

The continued growth of the town, particularly on the northern side, has led to a further review of the existing arrangements. Tests are being carried out with larger vehicles which it is thought may provide an economical solution to the problem.

Inspection of Food.

(a) General.

The following premises continued to operate in the district and regular inspections were carried out as follows:-

Grocery and provisions.....	19
Confectioners.....	7
Canteens.....	9
Greengrocers.....	4
Licensed premises.....	15
Restaurants and cafés.....	11
Bakers and confectioners.....	3
Fish shops.....	4
Butchers.....	6

(b) Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale of ice cream.....	12
Fried fish shops.....	2
Preparation and sale of preserved meats.....	2

(c) Dairies.

Three premises in the district were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54.

(d) Inspections - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The Food Hygiene Regulations continued to be enforced and it was possible to achieve a number of improvements both in equipment and in the method of food handling.

The two temporary certificates of exemption issued in 1956 were revoked on completion of the necessary structural alterations and on provision of the required equipment.

(e) Condemned Food.

As a result of inspections and subsequent condemnation the following foodstuffs were surrendered by the owners:-

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qtrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Fresh meat.....	-	1	12	-
Tinned meat.....	-	-	19	-
Fresh fish.....	-	3	6	-
Tinned fish.....	-	-	-	15
Tinned fruit.....	-	-	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous.....	-	-	1	12
<hr/>				
Total:-	1	1	16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

During the year five complaints were received concerning foodstuffs. They were dealt with as follows:-

- Foreign matter in bread - (1) Found to be a shred of Hessian from cloth used for wiping baking tins. As a result of representations to the bakers concerned the practice of using this material was discontinued.
- (2) A small piece of bread was found to contain a thread of string torn away from a worn canvas webbing conveyor belt.
- Discoloured bread - (3) Found to be due to a small quantity of brown dough in an ordinary white loaf.
- Red mildew or mould on lamb. - (4) Due to conditions existing in a domestic larder.
- Bacon containing maggots- (5) Thought to be due to flies. Representations to the firm concerned resulted in the installation of a large refrigerated bacon store on the premises.

(f) Ice Cream.

Local vendors continued to obtain their supplies from large and reputable producers. Eight samples were taken and upon examination were graded as follows:-

Grade I	7 samples
Grade II.....	1 "
Grade III.....	-

Rodent Control. (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949)

The Council's part-time Rodent Operative dealt with 94 private residences and 11 business premises.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Further discussions took place with the local Hospital Management Committee regarding the smoke nuisance from the chimney of the principal boiler at St. Margaret's Hospital. The problem is largely one of stoking and of the type of fuel used. Observations of the chimney are being maintained and representations are made when necessary.

Complaints were also received concerning the smoke from the hospital incinerator, and, following representations and negotiations, the existing equipment was improved by the installation of open instead of closed fire-bars and by the fitting of an additional length of flue pipe.

Inspection of Factories. (Factories Acts 1937 & 1948)

No new factories were erected during the year. Routine inspections were carried out of existing premises.

Inspections.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	12	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	7	3	-	-
Total:-	46	19	-	-

Outwork.

Eighteen outworkers were on the register at 31st December, 1957. These were engaged mainly on work in connexion with wearing apparel.

H A R L O W U R B A N D I S T R I C T

I. Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

General Data.

Area (in acres).....	6,313
Resident population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate.)	35,690
Number of occupied houses (mid-year).....	10,850
Number of houses per acre (average).....	1.7
Number of persons per acre (average).....	5.6
Number of persons per house (average).....	3.3
Ratable value (mid-year).....	£439,775
Product of a penny rate (financial year 1957/58).....	£1,920
The rate in the pound (financial year 1957/58).....	20/-

Births.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u>		
Legitimate....	573 (505)	558 (455)
Illegitimate..	15 (15)	6 (7)
Total:-	<u>588 (520)</u>	<u>564 (462)</u>
Crude rate per 1,000 population	32.3	{32.9}
Adjusted rate.... " " "	21.0	{21.7}
England and Wales " " "	16.1	{15.7}
(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>		
Legitimate....	18 (11)	12 (10)
Illegitimate..	- (-)	1 (-)
Total:-	<u>18 (11)</u>	<u>13 (10)</u>
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births... ..	26.2	{20.9}
" " " " " England and Wales.. ..	22.4	{23.0}

Deaths.

M.

F.(a) All ages 76 (76) 78 (74)

Crude rateper 1,000 population 4.3 (5.0)

Adjusted rate..... " " " 10.7 (11.8)

England and Wales.. " " " 11.5 (11.7)

(b) Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate..... 15 (12) 10 (11)

Illegitimate..... 1 (-) - (-)

Total:- 16 (12) 10 (11)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 22.2 (23.4)

" " " England and Wales.... 23.0 (23.8)

(c) Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate..... 8 (9) 8 (6)

Illegitimate..... 1 (-) - (-)

Total:- 9 (9) 8 (6)

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 14.7 (15.3)

" " " England and Wales.... 16.5 (16.9)

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes.....	76(76)	78(71)	154(147)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1 (-)	2 (1)	3 (1)
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping cough.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections.....	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
8. Measles.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	- (2)	1 (1)	1 (3)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	5 (5)	- (-)	5 (5)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	- (-)	7 (2)	7 (2)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms....	5 (5)	7 (5)	12 (10)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	2 (-)	1 (2)	3 (2)
16. Diabetes.....	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	8 (5)	10 (10)	18 (15)
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	14 (15)	6 (11)	20 (26)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1 (-)	1 (2)	2 (2)
20. Other heart disease.....	1 (6)	6 (8)	7 (14)
21. Other circulatory disease.....	3 (3)	4 (1)	7 (4)
22. Influenza.....	- (1)	2 (-)	2 (1)
23. Pneumonia.....	3 (3)	5 (6)	8 (9)
24. Bronchitis.....	3 (6)	3 (2)	6 (8)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	3 (-)	2 (-)	5 (-)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	- (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations.....	5 (2)	5 (2)	10 (4)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	13 (11)	11 (12)	24 (23)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	2 (4)	- (-)	2 (4)
34. All other accidents.....	3 (3)	1 (3)	4 (6)
35. Suicides.....	1 (2)	1 (-)	2 (2)
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

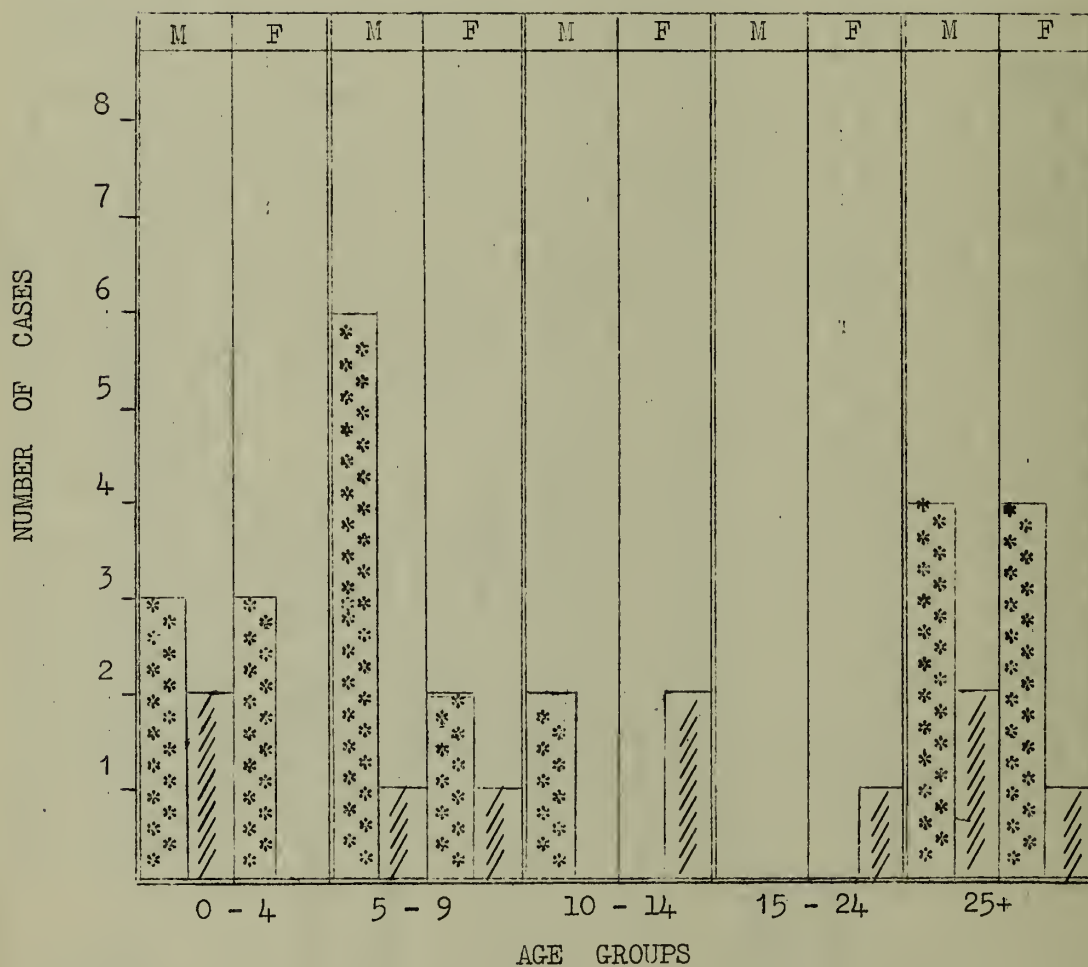
Communicable Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

	Notifications according to age groups											Incidence rate per 100,000 population	
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	TOTAL	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	5	1	16	1	1	-	-	-	28	78.4
Whooping cough	12	10	17	9	13	59	-	-	-	-	-	120	336.2
Poliomyelitis-paralytic	1	-	-	4	1	8	2	-	8	-	-	24	67.2
non-paralytic	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	1	3	-	-	10	28.0
Measles	51	155	239	189	185	482	12	2	6	-	-	1321	3701.3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Dysentery	-	-	2	1	1	5	-	1	10	-	-	20	56.0
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.8
Acute pneumonia	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	7	2	1	14	39.2
Encephalitis-infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2.8
post-infectious	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	5.6
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	5.6
Food poisoning	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	2	2	2	12	33.6
Infective hepatitis	1	-	1	1	2	16	14	5	9	-	-	49	137.3
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	5.6

N.B. The incidence rate of infective hepatitis and puerperal pyrexia for England and Wales are not available.

INCIDENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS IN HARLOW

Age and Sex Distribution



* - Paralytic ;

// - Non-paralytic.

Communicable Diseases - Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Number of cases on the register at 1st January, 1957.....	77(41)	88(51)	8(3)	7(6)	180 (101)
Number of cases added to the register during 1957:-					
New cases.....	9 (4)	10 (9)	1(-)	3(1)	23 (14)
Inward transfers.....	31(41)	33(34)	1(5)	5(1)	70 (81)
Number of cases removed from register during 1957:-					
Deaths.....	- (1)	1 (1)	-(-)	-(-)	1 (2)
Outward transfers.....	2 (3)	9 (2)	-(-)	- (1)	11 (6)
Patients cured.....	2 (3)	3 (1)	-(-)	-(-)	5 (4)
Diagnosis amended.....	2 (2)	- (2)	-(-)	1(-)	3 (4)
Number of cases remaining on the register at 31.12.57.....	111(77)	118(88)	10(8)	14(7)	253 (180)

SICKNESS BENEFIT CLAIMS

Table showing the monthly number of new claims submitted to the Harlow Office of the Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Claims.</u>	
January.....	380	(558)
February.....	371	(531)
March.....	395	(418)
April.....	308	(278)
May.....	324	(341)
June.....	272	(259)
July.....	303	(265)
August.....	308	(211)
September.....	284	(282)
October.....	1379	(418)
November.....	993	(332)
December.....	697	(294)

II. Sanitary Circumstances.

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

Water.

The following information was obtained from the General Manager of the Herts & Essex Water Company, the statutory water undertaking in the area.

Water supplied - unmeasured (domestic).....	374,071,000	gallons
" " - by meter (trade).....	194,476,000	"
Total consumption for year.....	568,547,000	"
Average consumption per day (domestic).....	1,025,000	"
" " " " (trade).....	533,000	"
" " per head per day (domestic).....	26.72	"
" " " " " (trade).....	13.89	"
" " " " " (all purposes)...	40.61	"

Approximately eight miles of trunk and distribution mains ranging from 3" to 21" diameter were laid during the year, bringing the total length of mains within the district to 72.98 miles.

Considerable progress was made in connexion with Stage 2 of the capital works programme which is to secure further bulk water for the development of Harlow. The completion of the additional works involving the construction of three new bores and pumping stations at Thundridge, the extension of the re-pumping station at Hadham and the laying of a new 21" diameter trunk main from Hadham to the reservoir at Rye Hill, is anticipated during 1958.

During the year seventy-two water samples were submitted by the Company to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination. The Analyst reported that each sample was of wholesome water of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Two further check samples of the main supply were taken by the Local Authority and found to be satisfactory.

Four complaints in connexion with the main water supply were investigated during the year and necessitated sixteen visits.

There were ten wells in use.

Sewerage.

The whole of the new town, with the exception of Latton Street, Kingsmoor Road and Harlow Road, is adequately served by both foul and surface water sewers. It is anticipated that the work of construction of a new sewer at Latton Street will be completed during the forthcoming year.

Number of cesspool emptyings during the year.....	65
Average number of pail closets emptied weekly.....	105

Ten statutory notices to connect house drainage to the main sewer were complied with during the year. This involved the conversion of fourteen pail closets.

Public Cleansing.

Public cleansing is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor who submits the following information:-

Refuse is collected once a week from all residential properties in the town and as frequently as necessary from shops and business premises. For trade refuse the Council levies a charge on an agreed basis. Refuse is also collected from the Harlow market on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The Council's plant is composed almost entirely of completely enclosed, diesel engine, large capacity, hydraulically compressed refuse collectors.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Redricks Lane, in the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth where the Council operates an International Caterpillar Bulldozer. Refuse from Waltham Holy Cross, Sawbridgeworth and Epping Urban Districts and part of the Epping & Ongar Rural District is also dealt with at this tip on payment to the Harlow Council.

The total tonnage disposed of in 1957 was approximately 12,300.

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution.

The Council takes part in the County's scheme for the investigation of atmospheric pollution. A deposit gauge and a lead peroxide instrument have been installed at Netteswell Hall and another lead peroxide instrument at the Purford Green Junior School. The Analyst reports each month on the deposit collected in the gauge and on the amount of sulphur dioxide as determined from the lead peroxide candles. The results during the year under review compared very favourably with those obtained in most other areas in the country.

Housing.

General.

Number of houses (as at 31.12.57.).....	12,282
" " " owned by Local Authority.....	991
" " " " Harlow Development Corporation.....	10,149
" " " privately owned.....	1,142
" " housing inspections.....	195
" " intimation notices served.....	11
" " housing defects remedied.....	55
" " houses erected by Local Authority.....	Nil
" " " " private enterprise.....	31
" " " and flats erected by Harlow Development Corp..	1,961
" " legal proceedings.....	Nil
" " complaints of housing defects.....	17

Housing Act, 1957.

Houses demolished.....	3
Undertakings not to let.....	1
Closing orders.....	7
Houses in confirmed clearance areas awaiting demolition.....	8
Houses in clearance areas not yet confirmed.....	Nil
Demolition orders made under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957	10

One cottage in respect of which a closing order had been made was rendered fit for habitation and the order was, therefore, determined.

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

Number of applications considered by Local Authority.....	6
" " " approved.....	6
" " dwellings where work has been completed.....	3

Rent Act, 1957.

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair.....	5
" " certificates issued.....	3

In one case a certificate was not issued because the repairs had already been completed. Another application for a certificate was awaiting further consideration.

Nos.1-7, East End Cottages, Harlow Road, Great Parndon.

The Council has acquired seven cottages at East End, Great Parndon, and with the consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will repair and provide them with modern conveniences.

Food.

The total number of food premises in the district was 255 and there were approximately 50 mobile vehicles from which food was sold.

The food shops comprised:-

Grocers.....	58
Bakers.....	11
Butchers.....	21
Fishmongers (including 5 fish fryers)	11
Greengrocers.....	17
Sweets & confectionery.....	21

Other food premises:-

Cafes	6
Restaurants.....	5
Public houses.....	23

Off-Licences.....	4
Halls and community centres.....	8
Factory canteens.....	18
School canteens.....	19
Building site canteens.....	14
Food storage depots.....	1
Food factories.....	2
Bakehouses.....	4
Market stalls.....	12

Mobile vehicles.

Bakers.....	7
Bakers & grocers.....	5
Eggs.....	1
Greengrocers.....	12
Greengrocers & grocers.....	1
Grocers.....	12
Ice-cream.....	8
Shellfish	2
Snacks and "Hot Dogs".....	2

Two thousand and eighty-three visits were made to premises where food is prepared, stored or sold. Twenty-four complaints were received regarding the sale of food. Forty-three intimation notices were served in connexion with food premises and it was necessary to take legal proceedings through a Court of Summary Jurisdiction in two cases.

One thousand four hundred and sixty pounds of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption but most of this was subsequently used for animal feeding.

The foods were as follows:-

<u>Canned Food.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Meat.....	301	3
Fish.....	10	3
Milk.....	6	5
Fruit.....	161	-
Vegetables.....	15	11
Jam.....	10	0
Soup	-	10
Miscellaneous.....	5	8

Other food.

Meat.....	328	-
Bacon.....	12	-
Rabbits.....	44	-
Fish - wet	412	-
Fruit.....	10	-
Vegetables.....	6	-

	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Lobsters.....	80	-
Shrimps.....	34	-
Cake.....	10	8
Miscellaneous.....	13	6

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 - section 16.

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954 - Registered Premises.

Sixty-eight premises are registered under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954, in connexion with the storage, sale, preparation or manufacture of foods. The details are as follows:-

	<u>No. of premises registered</u>	<u>No. of inspections</u>
Storage and sale of ice-cream	47	165
Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.....	17	305
Dairies.....	5	34

Essex County Council Act, 1952 - section 103. Hawkers of Food

Twelve persons are registered as hawkers of food under the provisions of section 103 of the Essex County Council Act, 1952. No lock-up premises requiring registration under this Act were used for the storage of food.

Slaughterhouses.

There are no slaughterhouses operating in the district.

Milk Supply.

Fifty-four licences were issued during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949-1954. The details of these are set out below:-

	<u>Supplementary.</u>	<u>Dealer.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pasteurised.....	3	18	21
Sterilised.....	3	20	23
Tuberculin Tested.....	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>54</u>

Number of premises from which milk was sold.....	22
" " samples of milk taken during the year.....	23
(Pasteurised 13, sterilised 5, tuberculin tested 5)...	

All samples were satisfactory.

Ice-cream.

Number of samples of ice-cream taken during the year	6
" " " " ice-lolly " " " "	2

The ice-lolly samples were reported to be satisfactory and the ice-cream samples were each placed in Grade I. of the Ministry of Health's provisional grades.

Rodent Control (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949)

A Rodent Operative is employed by the Council on a part-time basis and details of his work are as follows:-

Number of properties dealt with.....	516
" " inspections made.....	1318
" " infestations:-	
Rats - major.....	Nil.
Rats - minor.....	123
Mice only.....	69
" " complaints received.....	192
" " contracts entered into.....	216
" " infestations treated by the Council.....	46
	192

The policy of the Council is to treat all infested dwellings free of charge. Occupiers of other types of properties can enter into contract with the Council who carry out the work at an economic charge.

Inspection of Factories (Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948)

1 - Inspections.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4.&.6. are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	15	24	1	-

b/f	15	24	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	87	67	2	-

(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	5	-	-
	<u>114</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u> (S.4.)	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of Prosecutions.</u>
			<u>to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector</u>	
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences insufficient (S.7.).....	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).....	2	1	-	1	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

3 - Outwork

Fifty-eight outworkers were on the register at 31st December, 1957, and were engaged mainly on work in connexion with wearing apparel.

Summary of other matters dealt with.

(a) Inspections - General

Number of complaints investigated and action taken.....	154
Inspections of schools (excluding school canteens).....	8
" " establishments for massage or special treatment...	4
" " hairdressers establishments.....	18
" " shops other than food shops.....	252
Visits in connexion with infectious disease.....	253
" " " investigation of smoke nuisances.....	3

Visits in connexion with caravans and movable dwellings.....	19
" " " " investigation of complaints and nuisances (other than housing matters).....	38
Visits in connexion with insect infestation.....	79
Total number of intimation notices served.....	79

(b) Summary of Legal Proceedings.

During the year legal proceedings were taken against two firms. Each case was heard at the Harlow Magistrates Court. Details are as follows:-

Offence.

Sale of a biscuit containing wire
contrary to section 2 of the Food &
Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale of biscuits containing string
contrary to section 2 of the Food &
Drugs Act, 1955.

Result.

Fine of £5. with £2. 2. 0. costs.

Defendants discharged conditionally
upon payment of £5. 5. 0. costs.

EPPING & ONGAR RURAL DISTRICT

I. Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

General Data.

Area (in acres).....	76,007
Resident population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate).	33,300
Number of occupied houses (mid-year).....	10,672
Number of houses per acre (average).....	0.1
Number of persons per acre (average).....	0.4
Number of persons per house (average).....	3.1
Ratable value (mid-year).....	£342,818
Product of a penny rate (financial year 1957/58).....	£1,357
The rate in the pound (financial year 1957/58).....	17/6d.

Births.

M.

F.

(a) <u>Live Births.....</u>	Legitimate...	291 (319)	261 (228)
	Illegitimate.	9 (14)	19 (16)
	Total:	300 (333)	280 (244)

Crude rate.....	per 1,000 population.....	17.4	(17.9)
Adjusted rate....	" " "	18.1	(18.8)
England and Wales	" " "	16.1	(15.7)

(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>	Legitimate...	7	(5)	6	(7)
	Illegitimate.	-	(-)	-	(-)
	Total:	<u>7</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>(7)</u>

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births..	21.9	(20.4)
" " " " " England and Wales.	22.4	(23.0)

Deaths.M.F.

(a) All ages 162 (163) 144 (150)

Crude rateper 1,000 population. 9.2 (9.7)

Adjusted rate..... " " " 9.5 (9.9)

England and Wales " " " 11.5 (11.7)

(b) Infants under 1 year of age.

Legitimate..... 7 (-) 4 (3)

Illegitimate..... - (1) - (-)

Total:- 7 (1) 4 (3)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 19.0 (6.9)

" " " England and Wales.... 23.0 (23.8)

(c) Infants under 4 weeks of age.

Legitimate..... 5 (-) 2 (3)

Illegitimate..... - (1) - (-)

Total:- 5 (1) 2 (3)

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 12.1 (6.9)

" " " " England and Wales 16.5 (16.9)

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes.....	162(163)	144(150)	306(313)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
4. Diphtheria.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping cough.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	6 (4)	1 (4)	7 (8)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	4 (12)	1 (2)	5 (14)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	- (-)	4 (7)	4 (7)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	27 (16)	19 (12)	46 (28)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
16. Diabetes.....	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (2)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	21 (20)	32 (21)	53 (41)
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	21 (31)	17 (15)	38 (46)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1 (3)	1 (1)	2 (4)
20. Other heart disease.....	14 (21)	31 (29)	45 (50)
21. Other circulatory disease.....	8 (9)	7 (13)	15 (22)
22. Influenza.....	6 (1)	1 (-)	7 (1)
23. Pneumonia.....	10 (8)	4 (11)	14 (19)
24. Bronchitis.....	7 (9)	6 (5)	13 (14)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1 (1)	1 (3)	2 (4)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1 (2)	- (1)	1 (3)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4 (4)	- (-)	4 (4)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations.....	4 (-)	- (3)	4 (3)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	9 (13)	11 (17)	20 (30)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	3 (2)	- (-)	3 (2)
34. All other accidents.....	7 (1)	3 (2)	10 (3)
35. Suicides.....	2 (3)	- (1)	2 (4)
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Communicable Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

	Notifications according to age groups											Total	Incidence rate per 100,000 population	Fpping & Ongar	England & Wales
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-				
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	1	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	9	27.0	65.8	
Whooping cough	1	-	1	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	11	33.0	189.3	
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	4	12.0	7.1	
non - paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	6.0	3.7	
Measles	8	29	48	49	62	198	8	1	-	-	-	1 404	1213.2	1410.9	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.1	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	9.0	64.3	
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2.3	
Acute pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	5	-	9	27.0	72.8	
Encephalitis - infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3.0	0.4	
post - infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.3	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	15.0	8.0	
Food poisoning	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	6	18.0	20.4	
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	6	18.0		
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		

N.B. The incidence rates of infective hepatitis and puerperal pyrexia for England and Wales are not available.

Communicable Diseases - Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on the register at 1st January, 1957.....	52(50)	49(30)	18(13)	13(16)	132(109)
Number of cases added to the register during 1957:-					
New cases.....	11 (1)	8 (4)	3 (2)	2 (1)	24 (8)
Inward transfers.....	8(15)	8(20)	1 (4)	- (-)	17 (39)
Number of cases removed from the register during 1957:-					
Deaths.....	1 (1)	2 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	3 (2)
Outward transfers.....	3 (7)	3 (2)	- (1)	1 (2)	7 (12)
Patients cured.....	1 (3)	- (1)	3 (-)	1 (2)	5 (6)
Diagnosis amended.....	- (3)	- (1)	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (4)
Number of cases remaining on the register at 31.12.57.....	66(52)	60(49)	18(18)	13(13)	157(132)

II. Sanitary Circumstances.

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

Water.

Total number of premises with supply from the mains... 9,379
Total population served..... 30,499

Extensions of mains carried out in 1957:-

	Size of main.			
	3"	4"	6"	9"
Chipping Ongar.....	92	194	445	-
High Ongar.....	3	2	329	-
Lambourne.....	-	92	-	-
Magdalen Laver.....	6	864	-	-
Nazeing.....	108	122	159	-
North Weald.....	4	-	131	-
Roydon.....	-	1	-	434
Sheering.....	-	5	98	-
Stanford Rivers.....	-	-	-	196
Stondon Massey.....	-	74	-	-
Theydon Bois.....	166	71	-	435
Theydon Garnon.....	6	-	-	435

Length laid (in yards).	385	1425	1162	1500
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Dwellings connected during 1957:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Number of new connexions</u>
Abbess Roding.....	2
Blackmore.....	17
Bobbingworth.....	1
Chipping Ongar	27
Doddinghurst.....	12
Epping Upland.....	5
High Ongar.....	2
Kelvedon Hatch.....	1
Lambourne.....	19
Little Laver.....	2
Magdalen Laver.....	3
Moreton.....	1
Nazeing.....	76
North Weald.....	17
Roydon.....	4
Sheering.....	1
Shelley.....	10
Stanford Rivers.....	8
Stapleford Abbots.....	5
Stapleford Tawney.....	1
Stondon Massey.....	1

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Number of new connexions.</u>
brought forward:-	215
Theydon Bois.....	90
Theydon Mount.....	3
Willingale.....	2
Total:-	<u>310</u>

The quality and quantity of the main water supply were generally satisfactory.

Adequate bacteriological tests of raw and treated water were undertaken by the Herts & Essex Water Company. Four routine samples of the main water supply and two samples of well water were also taken by the Council's staff and on examination were found to be satisfactory.

Sewerage.

Sewerage and sewage disposal are under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor who has supplied the following information:-

General provision in the area.

Sewers.

The following parishes are provided with sewers:-

Abbess Roding	Matching (part)
Chipping Ongar	North Weald
High Ongar	Nazeing
Lambourne (part)	Roydon
Shelley	≠ Sheering
Stanford Rivers	Theydon Bois.
Epping Upland	

Cesspools.

The Council continued to operate a cesspool emptying service in the following parishes:-

Matching	Roydon
North Weald	≠ Sheering
Nazeing	Epping Upland
Theydon Bois.	

About 450 cesspools were emptied during the year.

Pail Closets.

Pail closets in the following parishes were emptied by the Council:-

North Weald (part)	Roydon
Matching	Epping Upland (part)
* Sheering	Nazeing.

Approximately 500 pail closets were emptied each week.

- * Sheering. The work of sewerage this parish was completed in 1955 and in 1957 the Council decided that sufficient time had elapsed to enable owners of dwellings on the line of the sewer to complete arrangements for connexions to it. The Council, therefore, resolved that as from 1st April, 1958, no cesspools or pail closets would be emptied. This would enable the Council to extend the service to other parts of the rural district where no sewers are as yet available.

Adequate notice of the intention to withdraw the service was given to all property owners.

New Sewerage Schemes.

(a) Stapleford Abbotts.

During the year under review the Minister of Housing and Local Government approved a scheme for the sewerage of the parish of Stapleford Abbotts and it is expected that the work will commence in 1958.

(b) Blackmore and Doddington.

The Minister has authorised the Council to invite tenders for Part II of this scheme and it is anticipated that work on it will commence immediately after the completion of Part I which, at the present rate of progress, is expected in August, 1958.

The Council hopes that the provision of sewers will result in an improvement in the standard of new development and of existing properties.

New connexions to existing sewers.

During the year under review connexions to existing sewers proceeded at a satisfactory rate.

Sewage disposal.

The sewage disposal works at Abbess Roding, Abridge, Epping Green, Matching Tye, Nazeing, North Weald, Roydon, Stanford Rivers and Theydon Bois were maintained in good order. This also applies to a number of minor plants dealing with small private and Council housing estates and to the many pumping stations forming part of the various sewerage systems. In the course of the year the works were inspected by members of the Essex County Council who found them in excellent condition and reported accordingly.

Public Conveniences.

Chipping Ongar.

Purchase of the land necessary for the proposed car park and public conveniences has been completed and it is hoped to obtain consent to proceed with this scheme in the near future. Meanwhile, the general public could still use at all hours the sanitary accommodation attached to a public house in accordance with the Council's previous agreement with the Licensee.

Abridge.

This unattended public convenience rented from a brewery company has proved difficult to maintain because of misuse and acts of vandalism.

Public Cleansing.

This service is under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse collection covers the whole area. During the year it was possible to make more frequent collections, so that now there is no parish from which refuse is not removed at least once a fortnight.

Disposal.

There are five disposal sites, all of which are of the "controlled" tipping type. Negotiations for the use of a centrally sited tip are nearly completed. It will be of sufficient size to take the refuse from the whole of the district.

Plant.

Seven vehicles are in service and one in reserve. The fleet is being gradually modernised and now comprises 3 "Paxit" and 4 Side Loader vehicles.

Staff.

The staff comprises 23 men.

General.

Number of occupied houses.....	10,672.
" " houses owned by the Local Authority.....	2,491
" " " privately owned.....	8,181
" " houses and shops combined (included in above).....	149
" " housing inspections.....	339
" " intimation notices served.....	80
" " statutory notices served.....	10
" " housing defects remedied.....	63
" " houses completed by the Local Authority.....	73
" " houses completed by private enterprise.....	375

Housing Act, 1957.

Houses demolished.....	19
Undertakings not to use houses for human habitation.....	5
Closing orders made.....	-
Houses in clearance areas confirmed during the year.....	19
Houses in confirmed clearance areas awaiting demolition.....	34
Demolition orders made.....	17
Undertakings cancelled and demolition orders revoked.....	7

Rent Act, 1957.

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair.....	8
" " certificates of disrepair issued.....	4
" " " " cancelled.....	-
" " undertakings received from landlord.....	2

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

Eleven improvement grants were approved. Forty-one schedules of disrepair and of necessary works required to ensure compliance with the prescribed standard were prepared in respect of fifty-six premises.

The Epping & Ongar Council has continued the policy of the former Rural District Councils of Epping and Ongar in giving whole-hearted support to "Operation Rescue" made possible by the Housing Act, 1949. Since the coming into force of this Act one hundred and ninety applications for grants have been approved; one hundred and forty-nine dwellings have so far been modernised to the prescribed standards and twenty-four improvement schemes were in hand but not yet completed at the close of the year. In seventeen cases the grants, although approved, were not taken up.

It is gratifying to record that enquiries about improvement grants are being received at an undiminished rate. It is good policy to preserve structurally sound houses by providing them with amenities regarded as essential for a decent and healthy life, thus making an important contribution to housing.

Slum Clearance Programme.

The five year programme prepared in August, 1955, in accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the Ministry's circular 55/54 was nearing completion and a supplementary programme was being prepared. Up to date seventy-seven dwellings have been dealt with as follows:-

	<u>Number of dwellings.</u>
Clearance areas.....	19
Demolition orders.....	<u>58</u>
Total:-	<u>77</u>

It is heartening to record that during the year occupants of properties subject to confirmed clearance orders, operative demolition or closing orders were rehoused at an accelerated rate.

Movable Dwellings.

During the year five applications were received for permission to station movable dwellings, and licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were granted in each case.

Glen Faba and Riverfields Estates, Roydon.

A sub-committee was appointed to investigate the whole problem of these estates, including the rehousing of families in respect of whom the Council had accepted an obligation to provide alternative accommodation. Six such families, having given undertakings to demolish their premises on the estates, were rehoused. Enforcement action was pending in one further case where the tenant has been rehoused but the owner has not given an undertaking to demolish the property.

These are the first positive steps towards an ultimate solution of the problem.

Inspection of Food.

General.

The number and type of food premises in the district was as follows:-

Grocery, provisions, and general stores.....	102
Restaurants and cafes	33
Bakers.....	5
Greengrocers.....	9
Fishmongers.....	3
Butchers.....	17
Dairies.....	6
Licensed premises.....	80
Total:-	<u>255</u>

	<u>Visits.</u>	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Shops.....	357	57	49
Restaurants and cafes.....	47	15	11
Licensed premises.....	30	20	10

One hundred and forty-five premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice-cream.....	131 premises
Manufacture of sausages, etc....	24 "

One hundred and fifty-two inspections were made of these premises.

Essex County Council Act, 1952 - Section 103 - Hawkers of Food.

Two persons are registered as hawkers of food under this Act.

Milk.

Six dairies in the district are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Eighteen registered distributors of milk operate in the same area.

The following licences were granted during the year under review in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:-

	<u>Supplementary Licences</u>	<u>Dealers Licences.</u>
Pasteurised.....	11	7
Sterilised.....	13	13
Tuberculin tested.....	11	5
Total:-	<u>35</u>	<u>25</u>

Thirty-three samples were taken - twenty of pasteurised, four of sterilised and nine of tuberculin tested milk - all were satisfactory.

Ice-cream.

One hundred and thirty-one premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. During the period under review twenty-seven samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination. As a result of such examination all were classified as Grade I.

Two samples of ice-lolly were also examined and were found to be satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughtering and meat inspection.

There are seven licensed slaughterhouses in the area and twenty licensed slaughtermen are on the register.

One slaughterhouse is approved as an ordinary deadweight certification centre for pigs.

During the year a total of 20,206 carcasses were inspected; details are given below:-

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excl.</u> <u>cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed.....	1375	459	453	12322	5852
Number inspected.....	1375	420	453	12152	5806

All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis.

Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	10	5	7	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	193	152	1	606	681
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	14.1	38.6	1.3	5.0	11.9

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	36	76	-	1	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	2.8	19.5	-	0.008	1.1

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excl.</u> <u>cows.</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
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Cysticercosis.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	5	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	5	-	-	-	-
Carcases totally condemned....	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of meat condemned:- 8 tons 18 cwt 3 qtrs 18 lbs.

Surrender of other unsound food.

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qtrs</u>	<u>lbs</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Dried milk.....	-	1	1	-
Canned fruit.....	-	-	5	8
" vegetables.....	-	-	-	12
" fish.....	-	-	-	8
Fresh meat.....	1	1	3	-
Total:-	1	2	10	12

Rodent Control (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949)

One full time Rodent Operative is employed. The work of control during the year is detailed below:-

	<u>Local</u> <u>Author-</u> <u>ity</u>	<u>Dwelling</u> <u>houses</u> <u>including</u> <u>Council</u> <u>houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cultural</u>	<u>All others</u> <u>including</u> <u>business</u> <u>premises</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification....	-	289	13	29	331
(b) Survey.....	32	272	41	65	410
(c) Otherwise.....	-	897	52	412	1361
No. of properties found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats - Major.....	-	-	2	1	3
Minor.....	12	275	19	25	331
(b) Mice - Major.....	-	6	-	1	7
Minor.....	4	29	-	4	37
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority...	16	310	18	31	375

Number of block controls: 43

Test baiting and maintenance treatments of the Council's sewerage systems were carried out twice during the year. A total of 388 manholes were baited, and of these 115 (29%) showed partial pre-bait take and 5 (1.2%) showed a complete pre-bait take.

Petroleum Acts and Orders.

Number of operative licences.....	151
Number of visits in connexion with petroleum installations.....	102

Inspection of Factories (Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948)

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4.&.6. are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	6	8	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	77	92	5	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority...	-	-	-	-
Total:-	83	100	6	-

Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions.</u>
Insufficient sanitary conveniences.....	2	2	-	1	-
Total:-	2	2	-	1	-

Outwork.

The following outworkers were on the register at the end of the year:-

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers.</u>
Wearing apparel, making, etc.....	27
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper.....	1
Brush making.....	2
Stuffed toys.....	<u>5</u>
Total:-	<u>35</u>

Offensive Trades.

Fat Factory, Stapleford Abbotts.

An extension to this factory to include an improved Iwel type solvent extraction plant was completed, and consent to establish the trade for ten years was granted in accordance with Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Summary of Inspections.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Water supplies.....	186
Sewerage and drainage.....	190
Piggeries.....	36
Movable dwellings.....	52
Movable dwelling sites.....	30
Provision of dustbins.....	49
Offensive trades.....	47
Nuisances.....	142
Re-inspections to secure abatement of nuisances.....	118
Enquiries in cases of infectious disease.	70

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Slaughterhouses.....	1252
Bakehouses.....	7
Fish shops.....	4
Ice-cream premises.....	140
Dairies.....	10
Butchers shops.....	12
Food shops.....	331
Restaurant kitchens.....	27
Canteens (including school canteens).....	20
Licensed premises.....	30

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936.....	179
No. of re-inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936.....	220
No. of houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1957.....	160
No. of re-inspections under the Housing Act, 1957.....	110
No. of visits to houses in connexion with improvement grants...	122
No. of visits to houses in connexion with certificates of disrepair - Rent Act, 1957.....	17

Miscellaneous.

Factories.....	100
Public conveniences.....	24
National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 50.....	2
Unclassified.....	59

